

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 26 of Applicants' specification with the following Abstract of the Disclosure:

--
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A digital signature generating apparatus generates a digital signature of digital data. The digital signature generating apparatus includes a receiving unit, the secret key changing unit and a digital signature generating unit. The receiving unit receives one of a first command and a second command. The first command includes information indicating one of a plurality of secret keys, and the plurality of secret keys are included in the digital signature generating apparatus. The secret key changing unit changes a secret key used by the digital signature generating apparatus to a secret key specified by the first command, if the first command is received by the receiving unit. The digital signature generating unit generates the digital signature of the digital data using the secret key specified by the first command from a hash value extracted from the second command, if the second command is received by the receiving unit.--.